**District Contest 2024**

**Competition Name:** Graphic Image Sublimation

**Competition Description**: Contestants are tested on their ability to design, print and transfer, and understand the dye sublimation process to decorate various materials. 2024 District contest competitions will design, print and transfer an image onto a white ceramic coffee mug.

**Competition Guidelines:** 1. The competition will assess the competitor’s knowledge and skills of graphic imaging sublimation that will include:

a. Design a digital image and print a transfer sheet using a sublimation printer.

b. Transfer a graphic on a mug or other drinkware using a mug press.

c. Presentation and interview.

**Competition Length: 4 Hours**

**Competition Materials List:** Ceramic Coffee Mug, supplies needed to transfer image to a ceramic coffee cup. Software of choice to be used during competition

**Estimated overall cost:** Minimal cost for a white ceramic coffee mug to be purchased by competitor or competitor’s school.

**Competition Project:** 2024 District contest competitions will design and transfer an image onto a white ceramic coffee mug. The no limits logo will be transferred utilizing methods as described in the National Technical Standards. All safety precautions and personal protection equipment must be used as required to complete the task. The design and execution of the hands-on portion of the contest will be performed at the contestant’s school prior to contest date. The completed project will be presented at the time and date as specified on the district's contest schedule. Contestants will present their project and complete an interview with judges for the final part of the competition.

**Insert No limits logo Image:** [**https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uqcaowR1Hm5-X6T-ZoyC3wjD0gz5oAli/view?usp=sharing**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uqcaowR1Hm5-X6T-ZoyC3wjD0gz5oAli/view?usp=sharing)

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Competitors must create a one-page resume to submit online. Competitors should submit their resume by the deadline published on their district web page.  The link for resume submission will be sent to each competitor when registration closes. Failure to submit a resume will result in a 10-point penalty.

All competitors will bring the completed project along with a design notebook detailing the process and procedures used in creating their submission.  Design and process should be loaded onto a USB drive and submitted with their project for judging and interview

**Station One:** Digital Image Design

* Create a Digital Image Design for printing on a coffee mug.
* Each Competitor will use the SkillsUSA No Limits Theme as the transfer onto the white ceramic coffee mug

**Station Two** Creating design folder

* Create a folder on the flash drive with the following name, D# Graphic Image Sublimation
* Create the image that will fit the specifications of your white coffee mug.
* Include required elements & techniques (each element on an individual layer)
* Place digital image in your
* Use a Pantone Coated color in design.

**Station Three:** Transfer Printing

* Print the Digital Image Design on a Sublimation Printer
* Select snap to guides, add new vertical-guides
* Select the appropriate marquee tool to fixed ratio and size to fit your mug
* Draw the marquee box, snapping to the first vertical guide.
* Copy selection and paste it to a new file.
* Change image size by adding 1/8” to both dimensions.
* Use image rotation to flip canvas horizontal.
* Save file as Al and deselect selection.
* Repeat copy selection and save file for the remaining three tile segments (A2, A3, A4).

Select “mirror image” in printer properties.

Print files to the sublimation printer.

**Station Four** GIS 2.0 — Transfer a graphic on a ceramic drinkware product using a mug press.

* 2.1. Set up mug press for printing operation.
* 2.1.1. Preheat mug press to 400 degrees. (Some products may vary. The Performance Testing Plan with have final details
* 2.1.2. Set the timer for 2 minutes 15 seconds. (Some products may vary. The Performance Testing Plan will have final details.)
* 2.1.3. With the press open, adjust the pressure setting to medium pressure.
* 2.2. Apply sublimation transfer to the provided ceramic drinkware product.
* 2.2.1. Measure and cut the image transfer to fit the ceramic drinkware.
* 2.2.2. Wrap the transfer around the ceramic drinkware and center the transfer.
* 2.2.3. Tape the transfer to the ceramic drinkware with heat resistant tape.
* 2.2.4. Place a blowout sheet outside of the sublimation transfer to protect the press.
* 2.2.5. Place the ceramic drinkware in the press with the handle facing out.
* 2.2.6. Close the press (the handle will lock into place when closed) to start the timer.
* 2.2.7. Open the press when the timer sounds and remove the ceramic drinkware.
* 2.2.8. Remove heat tape from transfer and peel paper from the ceramic drinkware.
* 2.2.8.1. Take care to avoid scratching the poly coating while the ceramic drinkware is hot.
* 2.2.8.2. Use heat resistant gloves as ceramic drinkware is VERY hot. SAFETY is a priority.
* 2.2.9. Set the ceramic drinkware onto the concrete surface or cooling rack to stop the dye      sublimation process.
* 2.3. Evaluate image quality. 2.4. Equipment cleanup and workstation housekeeping

**Station Five**: Job Interview

* Competitors will present their project to the judges and
* Competitor will participate in a mock Job Interview
* Competitor will use their prepared resume to answers interview questions